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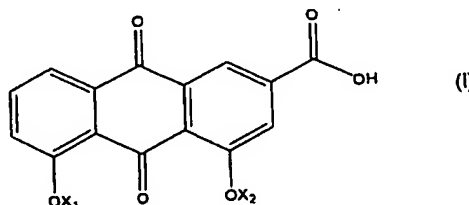
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(54) Title: **ESTER DERIVATIVES OF RHEIN AND THEIR THERAPEUTIC USE**



(57) Abstract: Compounds that may have anti-inflammatory activity are of general formula (I); wherein X_1 , is H or COR_1 , and X_2 is H or COR_2 but X_1 and X_2 are not both H; R_1 and R_2 are the same or different and are each C_{1-4} alkyl substituted with R_3 , or a four to seven-membered ring which can be optionally substituted with R_8 and can contain one or more additional heteroatoms selected from O, S(O)_n and NR₉; R_3 is F, CF₃, OR₄, NR₅R₆, O, S(O)_n, R₇; R_4 , R_5 and R_6 are the same or different and are each H or C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with R_3 , or NR₅R₆ is a C_{4-6} heterocycloalkyl ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from O, NR₈ and S(O)_n; each n is 0-2; R_7 is C_{1-4} alkyl; R_8 is as defined for R_3 or C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with R_3 or halogen; and R_9 is H or C_{1-4} alkyl; or a salt, solvate or hydrate thereof.